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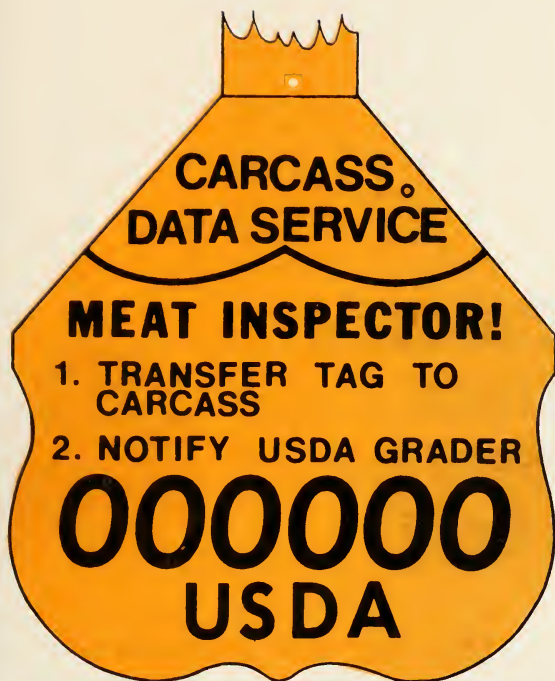
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2007

# A Guide to ... Carcass Data Service (Beef)

ETC 10/15


U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE  
NATIONAL MEAT PROCESSOR ASSOCIATION

# Carcass Data Service (Beef)



... **is** a joint USDA and beef and cattle industry effort to help cattle producers and feeders obtain carcass data—quality and yield grade factors—on important value-determining characteristics of the carcasses their cattle produce.

This service, conducted in cooperation with participating cattle producer and feeder associations, agricultural organizations, and State departments of agriculture, is designed to provide carcass data to persons who may not own the carcass, but who were financially interested in the live animal at some point during its development. This new service is easier to use and more readily available to a larger segment of the livestock and meat industry than USDA's Beef Carcass Evaluation Service, which has been available to producers for several years.

 **works** simply and conveniently. Specially designed eartags\* used for official identification in this program can be purchased from one of the cooperating sources. Producers and feeders can apply these bright orange, shield-shaped, serially numbered eartags to those cattle on which they want to obtain carcass information.

When eartagged cattle are slaughtered, a meat inspector will remove the tag from the ear, attach it to the carcass, and notify the USDA meat grader assigned to the plant.

After the tagged carcasses have been sufficiently chilled, the meat grader evaluates quality and yield grade factors and records the carcass data together with the eartag serial number and slaughter date on a special carcass data form. The completed data forms are forwarded to the Agricultural Marketing Service's Carcass Data Center in Washington, D.C. The Carcass Data Center processes the data and mails it to the cooperator who, in turn, sends it to the eartag owner. The eartag owner is billed for each completed data form received.


\*See eartag on cover

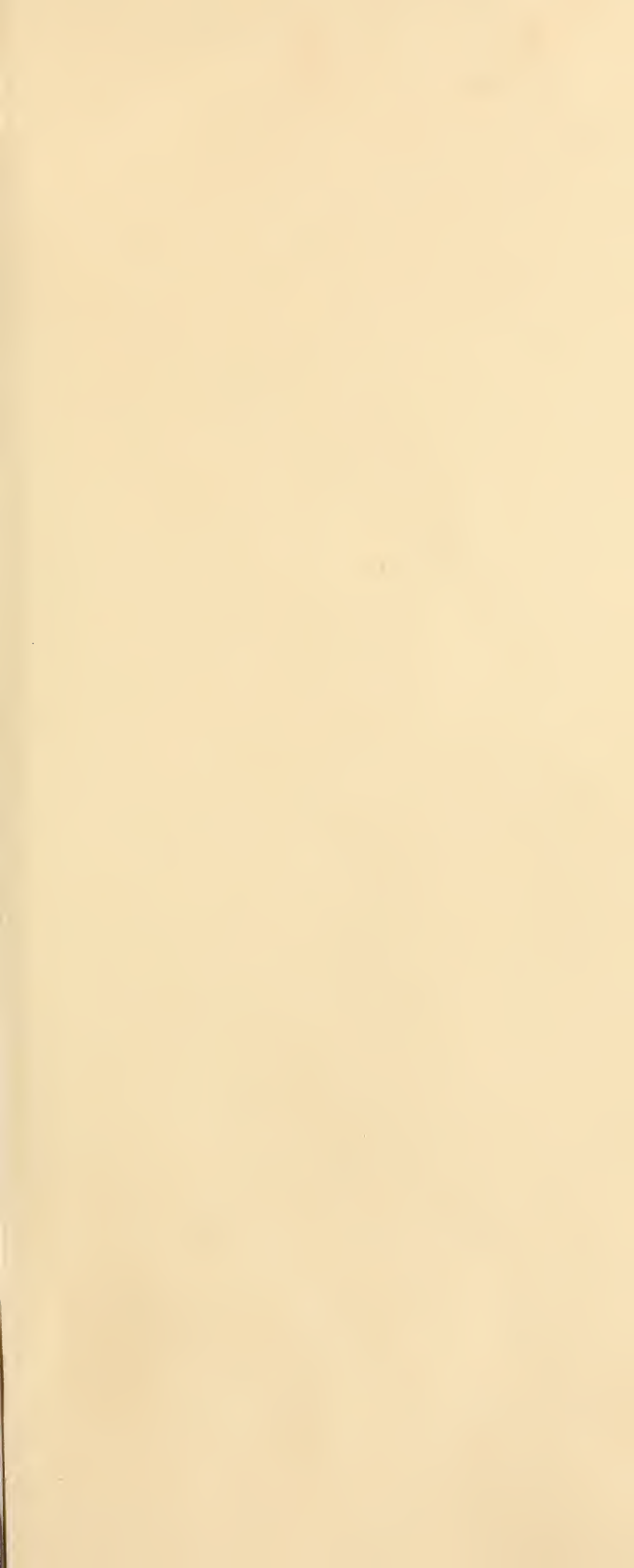
*Persons planning to use the Carcass Data Service should realize that purchase of an eartag does not guarantee that carcass data will be received on every animal identified.*

Eartags may be lost—either prior to or during the slaughtering process—or removed at any time during the production, feeding, and marketing processes. When this happens, positive identity from live animal to carcass—the key to the Carcass Data Service—is lost and data cannot be collected. However, the minimal price of eartags, plus the fact that the charge for this service is not made until the completed data form is received, makes the cost of losing eartags negligible.

Feeder calf producers should keep in mind that most cattle today are slaughtered at 16 to 24 months of age. Thus, the calf producer may not receive the eartag carcass report for several months after he sells the animal.

Feedlot operators who tag animals will receive the report a short time after sale of the animal.

 **will provide** the important value-determining carcass characteristics shown on the form on the following page.



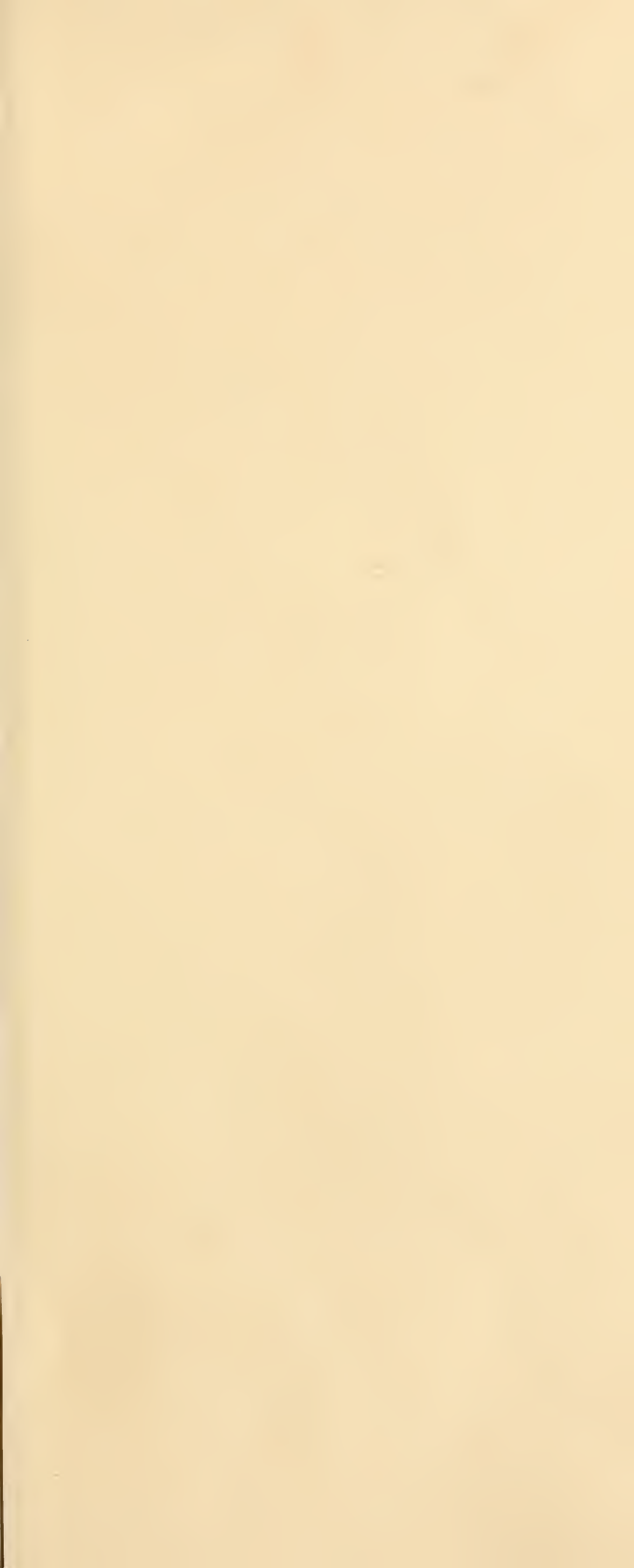
CARCASS DATA SERVICE (BEEF)

CONFOR- MATION <i>(Thirds of a grade)</i>	MATURITY <i>(Thirds of a group)</i>	MARBLING <i>(Thirds of a degree)</i>	QUALITY GRADE <i>(Thirds of a grade)</i>	PACKER'S WARM CARCASS WEIGHT <i>(Lbs.)</i>	ADJUSTED FAT THICKNESS <i>(Inches)</i>	RIBEYE AREA <i>(Sq. Inches)</i>	KIDNEY, PELVIC, & HEART FAT <i>(Percent)</i>	YIELD GRADE <i>(Tenths)</i>	EVALUATION DATE
C+	A	MT	C	594	.30	11.1	1.5	2.2	10/14/74
NAME OF ASSOCIATION OR PRODUCER								Grader Code 07	EARTAG NUMBER 000 000

REMARKS:

*\* Duplicate eartags for different carcasses denoted by an asterisk (\*)*      **PRODUCER'S COPY**      *(See reverse side for code abbreviations)*





## ... costs

\$.50—for each eartag

\$.75—for a tool for attaching tags

\$1.50—for each completed carcass data report

... **can help** by making a substantial contribution toward improving the genetic potential of breeding stock and improving feeding programs and management practices. The detailed carcass data obtained through this program can provide important guidelines in the production of high quality, meat-type cattle—those that combine thick muscling and a minimum of excess fat.

## ... can be obtained by

ordering official eartags from organizations and State departments of agriculture that are participating as cooperators. Eartags cannot be obtained directly from USDA. For information on sources of eartags, contact:  
Livestock Division  
Agricultural Marketing Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Washington, D.C. 20250

AMS-545

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Slightly revised April 1975

Agricultural Marketing Service

U.S. Department of Agriculture